

tary of Sunday-schools among the colored people; and Dr. R. E. Jones, editor of the *Southwestern Christian Advocate*, broad-minded, sane, scholarly, wielding a vast spiritual influence by his pen.

Then there is Dr. Wragg, agent of the American Bible Society, who has distributed more Bibles among the colored people than any man in the history of the world. And so I might go on naming others; but these men are either here or directly related to the work we have in hand. Such a work as this is the strongest argument for the higher education of the Negro. Fundamental to the work that we plan is the raising up of trained and consecrated leaders for the Negro race.

The Life of the Negro Circles about the Church

The third agency I would name is the church. The life of the Negro circles about the church. The Negro preacher is still the center of power. The most serious problem before the race is to hold the progressive, aspiring Negroes of the rising generation to the church through a ministry the majority of whom are so poorly equipped for this office. The highest quality of leadership is required to meet the demands for the religious, civil, and social reforms that must come for the redemption of the race. As teachers of the Word and as leaders of their people in the larger faith and truth and righteousness of life, ministers of intellectual breadth and spiritual vision are needed.

The fourth agency is the Sunday-school. No agency is more needed than this. The work of the Sunday-school is fundamental if we would build strongly for Christ. We should thus preoccupy the field of childhood for Christ. It is easier to preoccupy than to dislodge. Get the childhood of to-day and you have the manhood and the womanhood of to-morrow.

The Startling Needs of Sunday-Schools

The startling needs of Sunday-schools among the colored people are in the line of organization and teaching. The organization of their Sunday-school work and the methods are poor. Why? Because the teachers have never had adequate training in this work. Colored teachers have not been welcomed to white schools where they might have examples and illustrations of right methods. There has been too little organized, intelligent work for the training of colored teachers. If we are to get at the center of this problem, we must take hold of the childhood of the race. Trained, consecrated, Sunday-school teachers and

leaders sent forth from the Christian schools of learning of the South will solve the problem of the Sunday-school. And this is fundamental, because the children are not provided for in the church, nor do they receive Bible training in the home. We need in these institutions of learning schools of method that will train students who are to go forth into work of organization and teaching. Train them in the fundamentals of ethics. Train them in the methods of Bible study; train them how to teach the Word of God to the young.

Schools could be Separated in Groups

It would be well if we had a professorship for this work in every large institution represented here. This is impracticable, for more than one reason. I suggest, however, that schools of several sections of the South could be separated into groups. A teacher in Sunday-school methods and work and Bible study could be given a part of the year to each group. This Conference, I trust, marks the beginning of some such form of work as this. It seems to me an effective way of getting at the problem and solving it.

In this work we must have the help of Christian people of the South. Christian people, white and colored, need to come together for counsel and coöperation. The right spirit is well illustrated in this Conference, where we have sat together for these days oppressed by the burden of a great need, yet upheld, strengthened, and inspired by new purposes and larger aims. With the coöperation of Christians north and south, under the cross of Jesus Christ, and with the leadership of the Spirit, which is His continued life among men, we shall work out the solution of this problem for the elevation and regeneration of a great race that is set for the rising or falling of our civilization.

"Will Not Fail if Rightly Applied"

REV. JUDSON S. HILL, D.D., president of Morristown, Tenn., Normal and Industrial Institute, for thirty years engaged in the education of the Negro, said at Clifton:

"The Negro will not be elevated by any method aside from the Bible. Through the Sunday-school work and by whatever method the Bible may be used, the Negro's salvation may be obtained. It will not fail if rightly applied. I have no confidence in any other method. If we work along this line we will solve the problem that confronts us to-day."